

Dear Parent,

Wow! It is already 2012 and there are only two weeks left until the end of 2nd quarter and we have lots to get done before that happens! The subject updates will come after a few other items.

Field trips... we are in the process of planning two field trips this spring. Permission slips will be coming home soon so get ready to place these dates on the calendar.

January 20th (this is an early release day) we will be going bowling in the morning as an entire 6th grade. We have an activity planned related to our energy and motion unit specifically examining the impact of friction. We will enjoy two games of bowling with friends while learning at the same time. The cost of this trip will be \$7.00 and permission slips were handed out today.

March 6th we will be going to the art museum in the morning and an IMAX showing of Pyramids in the afternoon. The trip to the art museum is actually being planned by one of our art teachers, Mrs. Schultz. Since the busses were paid for we wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to take in a show at the IMAX theater that goes along with our Social Studies unit on Egypt.

More information about each trip will be provided soon! We also post permission slips on the wiki page so you can print one out from home.

Technology... every year after Christmas we see a surge in electronic devices coming to school. Attached you will find specific information about rules and teaching philosophies related to these devices. If your child is currently bringing a phone, ipad, ipod, kindle or some other type of electronic device to school, please take the time to read the attachment. In just a few short days, Mrs. Hall has already had the opportunity to “steal” several devices that have been left on desktops when the students are not in the room. Please make sure your child understands the responsibility that goes along with having these devices both for the sake of making sure they do not get stolen and that they are responsible for all conduct on their device. If the device is at school it must be used for school related purposes when in the classroom or it can be taken away which would be unfortunate when there are so many great things these devices can do to engage learners.

Homework completion... we are noticing an increase in the number of students that are not completing homework and an even greater increase in the number of poor excuses for why it wasn't done. We understand there are always exceptions, but as a general rule it is an expectation that students complete math assignments each day and complete reading at home along with entries in their reader's notebooks. Please remember that you can go to www.sli6team.wikispaces.com at anytime to see a list of homework assignments on a daily basis.

As teachers we separate assignments into two categories – practice assignments and assessed items. Examples of practice assignments might be math study links, a simple conclusion to a science worksheet, spelling worksheets, reading an article and recording a few notes, writing a draft of a paragraph for a writing assignment, etc.

Assessed items are assignments specifically given to see if students can demonstrate understanding of a topic that has been reviewed and practiced. These assignments are what make up our grades for report cards and show if students are meeting 6th grade standards. Some examples of assessed items are math boxes, final conclusions for labs in science, projects in social studies, reading logs and reading entries, final processed papers, etc. These are assignments that cannot be skipped and ones that we insist are completed. In an effort to ensure these assignments are done on time we are asking for your help.

If your child does not have an assessed assignment done on time, they will be issued a slip like the one below. They will be given the opportunity to choose their consequence, but they must follow through on it until the assignment is completed. One of the choices is to make a phone call home. We are assuming that if your child makes the choice to leave a message at home that you will follow through with some type of consequence at home. If your child receives one of these slips a copy will be emailed to you within 24 hours in a pdf format. This is something new that we are trying so please let us know if you have concerns or feedback. We appreciate your support of our efforts to make sure your child is successful.

Name _____
Date _____
I didn't have an assessed assignment completed when it was due. The consequence I choose for this is:
<input type="checkbox"/> 7:00-7:15 a.m. time in classroom
<input type="checkbox"/> 3:00-3:15 p.m. time in classroom
<input type="checkbox"/> 1:30-1:45 p.m. time in classroom
<input type="checkbox"/> 1:30-1:45 p.m. recess against the wall
<input type="checkbox"/> Phone call home
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
The assignment I did not complete was:

*** If you fail to show up for your selected consequence it will be doubled and your teacher will make a phone call or send an email home.

Parent, student, teacher book club... our next book club will meet on Feb. 7th from 7-8 p.m. We have given students a choice of reading The Hunger Games or The Giver. We are also hoping to set a date to see the movie for Hunger Games when it comes out and meet for a discussion after the movie. If you are interested please email your child's homeroom teacher to get a copy of the book and get your name on the list to receive future information through email.

Subject updates... will try to keep this short since we are close to filling two pages already.

Math – we are just finishing Unit 5 which has an emphasis on geometry. Once this unit is complete we will be administering the Mid-Year Math Assessment. This takes about a week. When we begin Unit 6 your child will receive Volume Two of their journal we will be collecting Volume One for student portfolios to share at spring conferences.

Reading/Writing – our emphasis over the next three weeks in both subjects is on mysteries. We are doing double time on reading for the next several days so that all students have time to read an entire mystery novel. Then we will begin to write our own mysteries. This will be the final processed paper of the 2nd quarter.

Science – we have begun our unit on Energy, Machines, and Motion. The past few weeks we have explored energy in batteries, learned about friction, explored elastic force through our Barbie Bungee, and now we are learning about the scientific definitions of work and power. Before long we will focus on simple machines.

Social Studies – The Greek unit has begun. Everyone is learning about the Greek Gods and the role they played in that civilization. At some point we will watch the movie The Lightning Thief which is rated PG. If for some reason you do not want your child to see this movie please notify their homeroom teacher otherwise permission will be assumed. The students will complete several small projects throughout this unit.

We have a student that has expressed an interest in writing. We promised to reserve her a space in our newsletter to tell about events in 6th grade from the perspective of a student. Enjoy!

Just For Us- News for Team Silver Students by Grace A.

Books - Some good new reads have just been discovered! Have you been looking for a good book? Well, here are 5 books that made the top, suggested by sixth graders for sixth graders! **The Mysterious Benedict Society** by Trenton Lee Stewart, **The Hunger Games Series** by Suzanne Collins, **Fever** by Laurie Halse Anderson, **Along For The Ride** by Sarah Dessen, **The Kingdom Keepers** by Ridley Pearson.

Weather - Well, it's the middle of January and it is starting to feel like spring time! This week it looks like some bright sunshine and temperatures in the upper thirty's and lower forty's all the way up to Thursday in which the temperatures will drop back into the twenty's with snow showers and some sun for the weekend.

Don't forget to read the next newsletter! There is sure to be something new each time!

Just for fun... Do you know what each teacher did over break?

Mrs. Hall traveled up north to be with her family and was glad she did because they actually had snow on the ground! She also got to spend a few precious days with her oldest daughter that was home from Air Force Training and lots of time with nieces and nephews that even came to Oconomowoc and got to swim at the YMCA.

Mrs. Charles spent Christmas with family and friends in Oconomowoc and Kohler. She relaxed during the week and ended the break by participating in the Polar Bear Plunge to support breast cancer research.

Mr. Ryan traveled to Minnesota to spend time with family and friends over Christmas. He enjoyed the time off with his girlfriend, but could have done without the food poisoning after a dinner out. He is also excited to finish out the wrestling season on a strong.

Mr. Fredricks also enjoyed time with his family and appreciated the extra time off to play hockey. He begins training for the Birkebeiner skiing event but would appreciate some snow (at least three feet).